

Christ Church Communiqué



The Monthly Newsletter of Christ Church

June 2006

Christ Church Men's Ministries

Introduction

As in all phases and areas of our development as a church, I have been greatly assisted by the models established by others whom I trust and respect. Among those is John Piper, who serves as pastor at Bethlehem Baptist Church in Minneapolis. John is joyously preoccupied by a radical view of the glory of God, and this vision has been consistently woven into the tapestry of every ministry at Bethlehem Baptist, including their men's ministries program.

In praying through and discussing the form and content of our own men's ministries, I was repeatedly brought back to the fine work that Bethlehem has done in constructing their own men's ministry. In the end, I used Bethlehem's basic template and modified the same to meet our own purposes and unique sense of calling in Kingdom work. As such, I wish to gratefully acknowledge John Piper and the staff at Bethlehem Baptist for "kick-starting" our own vision and work for the cause of Christ through men's ministries.

Purpose

The purpose of Christ Church Men's Ministries is to declare in word, deed, and life, the preeminence of Christ in all things, to the glory of God in everything, and for the joy of all peoples everywhere. We accomplish this purpose by equipping, mentoring, training, praying, fellowshiping, and serving together as men.

Motto

Caritas – Humilitas -- Sinceritas

Caritas: Love for God and neighbor grounds our priorities as Christian men.

Humilitas: Humility before God and man animates our service as Christian men.

Sinceritas: Sincerity before God and man marks our character as Christian men.

Description

Christ Church Men's Ministries recognizes four major spheres of involvement and influence:

Sphere One: The Inner Man - A man's personal and private life with God.

Sphere Two: The Man at Home - A man's life with those who look to him for spiritual leadership, protection, provision, and support.

Sphere Three: The Man at Work - A man's vocational life.

Sphere Four: The Man in the World - A man's life in service to others through ministry, missions, and service.

In each of these spheres of life, we are dedicated to challenging, equipping, and releasing men to:

Devotion. Real men are men of devotion, which begins with knowing, loving, and obeying God in Christ Jesus. Other traits include being devoted to one's wife, family, church, and neighbor.

Proaction. Real manhood begins with a commitment to reject spiritual and social apathy and passivity. Real men do not seek the most natural and comfortable way, but are committed to taking the initiative in their lives—in the home, in the church, and in the community.

Responsibility. Real men fully understand that they have been called by God to assume a unique role in His plans for the Kingdom, home, and community (Genesis 3:9). Man's calling is neither a right nor a burden, but a responsibility to be performed as unto God. Authentic manhood revolves around three primary responsibilities:

1. A will to obey. Real men seek to know and do the will of God as revealed in the scriptures;
2. A work to do. Real men take up the tasks of responsibility in the home, church, community, and workplace;
3. A woman to love. Real men assume the responsibility for spiritual leadership in their marriage and home.

We further believe that a wise father will train his son(s) to embrace these responsibilities with sincerity and enthusiasm.

Leadership. Real men understand that the courage to lead from a posture of principled truth rather than from subjective feelings is a central feature that always separates men from boys. While the abilities and exercise of leadership develops with training and discipline, the underlying principles of godly leadership remain constant:

- Godly leadership is always God-appointed, never self-assumed.
- Godly leadership is servant leadership (Luke 22:26, Eph. 5:23,25, Matt. 7:12)
- Godly leadership is not authoritarian or self-aggrandizing. It does not *assume* Christ's authority, but *advocates* for it.

- Godly leadership is not patronizing and not condescending. It does not presume superiority, but recognizes and mobilizes the strengths of others.
- Godly leadership is courageous leadership. It steps forward and steps out to lead when it's not easy to do so.

Joyfulness. Real men are far more concerned with those things unseen and eternal than those things seen and temporal. As such, godly men live their lives from the vantage point of eternity and view their call to biblical manhood, not as a burden or a misery, but as a source of God-given joy and fulfillment (e.g., 1John 5:3, Heb. 12:1-2) As such, real men embrace their God-ordained roles and responsibilities with a sense of anticipation and enthusiasm—as those who await a great reward for the faithful completion of their duties (Heb. 11:24-26, 1Cor. 2:9, 1Tim 4:8, 6:6.). Real men pattern their lives after Jesus Christ, who embraced his responsibilities—a will to obey, a work to do, and a woman (the Church) to love—because He anticipated the reward in it all (Hebrews 12:1-2). This principle implies that real men forsake the fleeting pleasures and distractions of this world and stay the course set forth in God’s Word with diligence, steadfastness, and faith.

Process

Christ Church will offer an expanding array of opportunities designed to equip, mobilize, and release men to assume their God-given responsibilities in each sphere of life.

Sphere One: The Inner Man - A man's personal and private life with God.

Men's Breakfast Fellowship

- Meets at Carrow’s Restaurant, Dublin
- 700 - 830A Thursdays
- For men, young or old, interested in fellowship, accountability, study, and prayer.
- Purpose: To encourage growth in 1) The love and knowledge of our Lord, 2) Love for the Word, 3) Obedience to God's precepts and 4) Love for others.

We accomplish this objective by carefully studying God’s Word and precepts as articulated through the reading together of excellent texts, praying for each other, and holding each other accountable for assimilating the truth of God’s Word into our lives. The Christ Church Men’s Breakfast Fellowship is open to all men who desire to grow in their walk with the Lord.

Mentoring

In one-on-one mentoring relationships, two Christian men meet to study Scripture, hold one another accountable, and pray. Within this basic framework, mentoring relationships may take a number of different shapes: an elder member may mentor a younger member, a more mature Christian might mentor a younger Christian, or peers in the faith might effectively mentor one another. The mentoring meetings center on open and honest discussion, application of Scripture or Christian devotional material to daily living, personal accountability for appropriating the spiritual disciplines into Christian living, and prayer. Every member of Christ Church is strongly encouraged to participate in a one-on-one mentoring relationship for purposes of

cultivating a Christian mind, encouraging spiritual growth, and helping us to bear one another's sorrows and celebrate one another's joys. Call the church office to begin the process.

Men's Fall Retreat

13-14 October 2006 @ Redwood Christian Park in the Santa Cruz Mountains.

Sphere Two: The Man at Home - A man's life with those who look to him for spiritual leadership, protection, provision, and support.

Knights of the Roundtable

Navigating the road from boyhood to manhood is a treacherous journey in today's postmodern culture. We look to the Bible as the source of truth for parents throughout this important journey. Daily parenting, effective communication, prayer, discipline, encouragement, and loving support are important steps in building a firm foundation for your son. Knights of the Roundtable (KOR) helps dads equip their sons with a masculine vision, a code of conduct, and an eternal cause in which to invest their lives. KOR involves setting objectives, achieving goals, assuming responsibilities, and celebrating a boys' progress to manhood through ceremonies and outdoor activities.

Created Male and Female – Understanding and Celebrating the Differences

In partnership with Women's Ministries, this is a retreat designed for married couples to explore the roles of men and women in life and ministry, recognizing the obvious differences that exist between the genders, and celebrating God's goodness in those differences. Tentative: Spring 2007.

Sphere Three: The Man at Work - A man's vocational life.

We will eventually explore the possibility of organizing Bible studies at workplaces around the Bay Area as the Lord provides.

Sphere Four: The Man in the World - A man's life in service to others through ministry, missions, and service.

Men on a Mission

Christ Church has a burden for the lost, and the men of our church seek to connect with the world so that the preeminence Christ might be proclaimed in all things, to the glory of God in

everything, and for the joy of all peoples everywhere—whether in our communities, region, state, country, or around the globe.

The men of Christ Church fulfill this calling and responsibility through various means, including:

1. Organizing support and sending mission workers and teams;
2. Participating in short-term missions trips;
3. Serving the needs of the church and community through the respective skills of the men, such as medicine, construction, administration, computer assistance, teaching, repairs, etc.

Conclusion

At the outset, it was stated that the purpose of Christ Church Men’s Ministries is to declare in word, deed, and life, the preeminence of Christ in all things, to the glory of God in everything, and for the joy of all peoples everywhere. This is our vision...this is our purpose...this is our “reason for being,” if you will. I trust that the men of Christ Church will throw themselves into the vision and work of Christ Church Men’s Ministries and that everyone will faithfully uphold this critical ministry in prayer as we equip, mentor, train, pray, fellowship, and serve together as men...for the cause of Christ, the glory of God, and the joy of all peoples everywhere.

Grace and peace,

Robert W. Evans



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